

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02

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DODE-00 /061 W

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R 041441Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8218

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

EUCOM

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER

USMISSION NATO

USIA WASHDC

USNMR SHAPE

UNCLAS ANKARA 1774

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, TU, GR, US

SUBJECT: TURKISH MEDIA COVERAGE OF HAIG VISIT

1. THE TURKISH PRESS AND BROADCAST MEDIA HAVE GIVEN MODERATELY HEAVY COVERAGE TO THE VISIT OF SACEUR GENERAL HAIG TO TURKEY. MOST TUESDAY MORNING (MAR 4) EDITIONS OF MAJOR DAILIES CARRIED BRIEF FRONT-PAGE STORIES AND MONDAY NIGHT'S MAIN EVENING TELEVISION NEWS BROADCAST USED FILM CLIPS OF THE VISIT.

2. THE SUBSTANCE OF NEWS REPORTS ON THE HAIG TRIP WAS LARGELY FORMAL. FOLLOWING IS THE FULL TEXT OF THE STORY WHICH APPEARED IN TUESDAY EDITIONS OF MILLIYET AND WHICH IS REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESS COVERAGE SO FAR:

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HEADLINE: SUPREME COMMANDER OF NATO, HAIG, ARRIVED
TEXT: GENERAL ALEXANDER HAIG, THE SUPREME COMMANDER OF
NATO, AND MRS HAIG, ARRIVED IN ANKARA YESTERDAY MORNING
FOR A COURTESY CALL. AFTER PLACING A WREATH AT ATATURK'S
TOMB, GENERAL HAIG CALLED ON CHIEF OF THE TURKISH GENERAL
STAFF, GENERAL SEMIH SANCAR, AND PARTICIPATED IN A
MEETING WITH COMMANDERS OF THE GROUND FORCES, THE AIR FORCE
AND THE NAVY. BECAUSE THE MEETING LASTED LONGER THAN THE
SCHEDULED TIME, GENERAL HAIG CALLED ON DEFENSE MINISTER
ILHAMI SANCAR AT 11:20 INSTEAD OF 10:40. REPORTEDLY,
DURING THE MEETING AT THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF BUILDING,
GENERAL HAIG AND TURKISH COMMANDERS DISCUSSED THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE TURKISH ARMED FORCES AFTER THE AID
CUT-OFF, THE POSSIBILITY OF FILLING THE GAP BY OTHER
MEMBERS OF NATO, THE EXTENT AND THE METHOD OF SUCH
GAP-FILLING, AND PROBLEMS RESULTING FROM THE GREEK
REFUSAL TO PERMIT FLIGHTS OVER THE AEGEAN SEA EVEN FOR
NATO AIRCRAFT. THE RESULTS OF CONSULTATIONS BY THE
SUPREME COMMANDER OF NATO ARE CONSIDERED TO HAVE SHED
LIGHT ON THE STUDIES OF NATO'S DEFENSE COMMITTEE IN
BRUSSELS WITH RESPECT TO TURKEY. AFTER CALLING ON THE
DEFENSE MINISTER, GENERAL HAIG WENT TO A LUNCH GIVEN IN
HIS HONOR BY THE MINISTER. HE TALKED TO FOREIGN MINISTER
MELIH ESENBEL AND PRIME MINISTER IRMAK IN THE AFTER-
NOON. GENERAL HAIG WILL LEAVE FOR IZMIR THIS MORNING AT
8 A.M. ABOARD HIS PRIVATE PLANE AND WILL ATTEND BRIEFINGS
AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF NATO IN IZMIR. HE WILL RETURN TO
BRUSSELS ON MARCH 5. END TEXT.

3. NO EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE VISIT HAS BEEN NOTED
SO FAR.
BERGUS

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